BY J. A. SELBY.

COLUMBIA, S. C., MONDAY MORNING, AUGUST 7, 1865.

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DAILY AND TRI-WEEKLY.

AND THE

WEEKLY GLEANER

EVERY WEDNESDAY.

BY JULIAN A. SELBY.

TERMS-IN ADVANCE.

Daily Paper, six months. \$5 00
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The Black Death.

The Black Death, like many other plagues of its class, can be traced far back into the remote East; and there is no doubt but that it is the same dis-ease which ravaged China and Tartary in 1333, fifteen years before it arrived on the shores of Europe. There had been a great famine in China, preceded by floods and earthquakes, which alone destroyed 400,000 persons, and in the following year no fewer than 5,000,000 died there of this plague. From the remote East it made its way into Europe some years later, for pestilence often travels slowlater, for pestilence often travels slow-ly, accompanying the migrations of men, and being carried about in their clothing and merchandize. It did not arrive in Europe until 1347, fifteen years after its outbreak in China. "From China," says Hecker, "the routes of the caravans lay to the North routes of the caravans lay to the North of the Caspian Sea, through Central Asia, to Tauris. Here ships were ready to take the produce of the East to Constantinople, the capital of commerce and the medium of communication between Asia, Europe and Africa." Contagion made its way along these channels, and Constantinople and the seaports of Asia Minor were the foci whence the disease was carried to whence the disease was carried to every country of E trope. Making its way across the European continent, it committed its greatest ravages—save, perhaps, in England—in Italy; raging terribly at Florence, where it was observed and described by the poet Boccaccio. Passing along the shores of the Mediterranean, it invaded France by way of Ayignon, spreading thence to England on the one hand, and to Germany on the other; whence, like the cholera of the present day, it doubled back, two years later, to Russia, and so back to the East.

The Black Death, so called from the rapid putrefaction of the bodies of its victims, was of the same nature as the Oriental plague—viz: a putrid typhus, only a greater malignity. The boils and buboes of the latter disease were found in the former whenever the patient lived long enough to permit their development. The inhabitants of Eu-rope at that time have been computed rope at that time have been computed at 100,000,000—a high estimate. Of these 25,000,000—a high estimate. Of these 25,000,000, or one-fourth of the whole, perished! In England it was still more fatal, owing, probably, to the ruder habits of the people. During the term of one year—viz: from August, 1348, to August, 1349, three-fourths of the whole population perished! Indeed, if we are to credit the analists of the period, not more the analists of the period, not more than one-tenth escaped! Many succumbed in a few hours, like Sennacherib's host; none endured for three days. In France numbers died on the spot where they were first smitten, as if struck by lightning. This terrible scourge, having swept over the then known world, committing such de-struction of life, and leaving behind it such misery and poverty as the world never saw before or since, at length died out; never again, we trust, to revisit the earth. It spared neither age, sex, nor condition; the rich and the poor alike succumbed. There died in Venice, the aristocratic, no less than 100,000 persons; in Florence, the refined, 60,000; in Paris, the gay, 50,000; and in London, the wealthy, 100,000; while in the busy, rich, industrious Norwich, there died the almost inversible number of 50,000 as most incredible number of 50,000 persons—nearly the whole, one would suppose, of its inhabitants! At Avig-

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